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MEMOIR

OF THE

FRENCH PROTESTANTS

WHO SETTLED

IN

OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

A. D. MDCLXXXVI

By Abiel Holmes

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MEMOIR OF THE FRENCH PROTESTANTS,

WHO SETTLED IN OXFORD, MASS. A. D. MDCLXXXVI.

BY ABIEL HOLMES, D. D.

With the permission of the Reverend and learned author, and through the kindness of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the editors have been permitted to copy the following notices from an interesting and elegant paper contained in the second volume of the third series of the "Historical Collections" now in the press, and still *unpublished*, entitled "*A memoir of the French Protestants who settled at Oxford, Massachusetts*, A. D. MDCLXXXVI. *with a sketch of the entire history of the Protestants of France*; *By* Abiel Holmes, D. D. *Cor. Sec'y Mass. Hist. Society.*"

The fact of the original settlement of the town of Oxford by the French emigrants has been scarcely known among our citizens: they will feel much indebted to the ingenious writer, well known as the author of the American Annals, for the interesting particulars, he has redeemed from oblivion.

On collation of copies of the original MSS. a few alterations have been made in the names, as originally printed, by the direction of the author of the memoir.

After an interesting notice of the history and sufferings of the French Protestants in their native land the author proceeds thus:—

M. Claude, a distinguished defender of the Reformed church referring to the "dragoons," who were sent to the Protestants to extort from them an abjuration, says: "They cast some into large fires, and took them out when they were half roasted. They hanged others with large ropes under the armpits, and plunged them several times into wells, till they promised to renounce their religion. They tied them, like criminals, on the rack and poured wine with a funnel into their mouths, till, being intoxicated, they declared that they consented to turn catholics. Some they slashed and cut with penknives; others they took by the nose with red hot tongs, and led them up and down the rooms till they promised to turn catholics."

These tremendous cruelties compelled eight hundred thousand Protestants to quit the kingdom. The Protestants of other states

and kingdoms opened their arms to receive them. Abbadie, Ancillon, and others fled to Berlin; Basnage, Claude, Du Bosc, and many others, to Holland; Allix, with many of his brethren to England; very many families, to Geneva; and no inconsiderable number, to America.

It was while the storm was bursting upon them, in the year preceding the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, that the Prostestants of Rochelle looked towards America, for an asylum. At an earlier period, indeed, they had applied to the Massachusetts government for this purpose; and, although they did not then avail themselves of the liberty given them, they were *now* encouraged by the remembrance of it. So early as the year 1662, "John Touton, a French doctor and inhabitant of Rochel in France, made application to the court" of Massachusetts, "in behalf of himself and other Protestants expelled from their habitations on account of their religion, that they might have liberty to inhabit there, which was readily granted to them." Their state, it would seem, was tolerable at that time, and they endured it; but at the time of the revocation, it was evidently insupportable. As they drew nigh that crisis, there were harbingers of "the windy storm and tempest." A declaration against the Protestants in 1681, was the forerunner of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. In 1682, the Assembly of the clergy of France issued a "warning to the pretended Reformed," for so they styled the Huguenots, "to return to the bosom of the church." This menace, with the portentous indications accompanying and following it, must have been sufficient to warn the Protestants of the impending danger, and to incite them to concert measures for escaping it. The asylum which had been solicited and promised twenty years before, was again sought, and a renewed application made for it, in New England.

By a "Letter, written from Rochel, the 1st of October, 1684," to some person in Massachusetts, it appears, that some Protestants in that city were robbed, their temple razed, their ministers banished, their goods confiscated, and a fine imposed; that they were not allowed to become "masters in any trade or skill;" that they were in daily expectation to have soldiers put in their houses, and their children taken from them. The writer observes, that this country, New England, was in such high estimation, that many Protestants were intending to come to it; inquires what advantage they can have here, and particularly "the boors," who were accustomed to agriculture; and suggests, that the sending over of

a ship to transport the French Protestants, would be a profitable adventure.

Whether a vessel was sent, or not, we are unable to determine. The difficulty of escaping from the kingdom, by any means whatever, must have been extreme, and attended with the utmost peril. Every attempt must have been made in the very face of the edict, which prohibited a departure from the realm on the severest penalties. One of the articles of the edict of revocation was: "And we do most straitly again repeat our prohibitions unto all our subjects of the pretended Reformed religion, that neither they nor their wives nor children do depart our kingdom, countries, or lands of our dominion, nor transport their goods and effects, on pain, for men so offending, of their being sent to the gallies, and of confiscation of bodies and goods for the women."

It is certain, however, that a considerable number of Protestants by some means effected their escape from France, and came over to America; and authentic papers, in our possession, seem to imply, that their transportation and settlement were provided for by men of the first distinction in New England.

By the records of the town of Oxford, it appears, that, in the year 1682, the General Court of Massachusetts granted to Joseph Dudley, afterwards Governor of the province, William Stoughton, afterwards lieutenant governor and commander in chief, Major Robert Thompson, and their associates, a tract of land in the northwesterly part of the province, now known by the name of Oxford, in the county of Worcester. This tract was "of eight miles square, and situated in the Nipmug country," so called from a tribe of Indians, of that name, in its vicinity. Soon after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, the proprietors "brought over thirty French Protestant families into this country, and settled them upon the easternmost part or end of the said tract of land."* In an original MS. "Delineation of the town of Oxford," lying before me, it is laid out in lots in the names of the original proprietors. Between eleven and twelve thousand acres, at the east end, were "severed, granted, and set apart for a village called Oxford, for the said families."†

* Oxford Town Records. These Records, reciting the grounds of forfeiture in 1713, say: "The said Joseph Dudley and their associates in the year 168– brought over 30 French Protestant families," leaving the year uncertain. The Rev. Mr. Whitney, in his History of the County of Worcester, says, it was "in the year 1686."

† See Appendix, B.

These imperfect notices are all that we have been able to discover, of the time and the manner of the transportation of the French Protestants to New England. How long they continued on their plantation, what were their occupations, and what their progress in improvements, we have not been able precisely to ascertain. It appears, however, that the united body of settlers continued ten years at least, on the plantation; that they erected fortifications upon it; that they sat up a grist mill and a malt mill; that they planted vineyards and orchards—remains of which are still to be seen; and that they acquired the right of representation in the provincial legislature. Of this last fact, the public records preserve the evidence; for in the year 1693, an act was passed by the Massachusetts government, empowering Oxford to send a representative to the General Court.*

Every thing concerning this interesting colony of exiles has hitherto been learnt from tradition, with the illustrations derived from scanty records and original manuscripts. Many of these manuscripts, which are generally written in the French language, were in the possession of Mr. Andrew Sigourney, of Oxford, and the rest were principally procured by Mr. Sigourney for the compilation of this Memoir.†

The oldest Manuscript that I have seen, is an original paper, containing "Articles of Agreement between Caleb Church of Watertown, mill-wright, and Gabriel Bernon of Boston, merchant," concluded in March, 1689, by which the said Church covenants, and agrees to "erect a corn or grist mill, in the village of Oxford." This instrument was sealed and delivered in presence of J. Berrand Du Tuffeau. "Tho. Dudley."

Church's acknowledgment of a receipt "in full following our bargain," is signed at "Boston, 4th Februarii, 168 $\frac{9}{90}$ the witnesses of which were Peter Basset and Gabriel Depont. The pa-

* Mr. Whitney, who takes a very slight notice of the French settlement in Oxford, mentions this act, as appearing "by the records in Secretary's office of the Commonwealth."

†Mr. Andrew Sigourney is a descendant from the first of that name who was among the original French settlers of Oxford. To his kindness I am indebted for nearly all my materials for this part of the Memoir. After giving me every facility at Oxford, in aid of my inquiries and researches, he made a journey to Providence for the sole purpose of procuring for me the Bernon papers, which he brought to me at Cambridge. These papers were in the possession of Philip Allen, Esq. of Providence, who married into the Bernon family; and who has since indulged me with the MSS. to the extent of my wishes.

per is endorsed, " Contract de Mr. Church pour le Moulin de New Oxford."

We can clearly trace the French plantation down to the year 1696; at which time it was broken up by an incursion of the Indians. By original manuscripts, dated that year and at subsequent periods, it appears, that Gabriel Bernon, a merchant, of an ancient and respectable family in Rochelle, was undertaker for the Plantation, and expended large sums for its accommodation and improvement. An original paper in French, signed at Boston, in 1696, by the principal settlers, certifies this fact in behalf of Mr. Bernon; and subjoins a declaration, that the massacre of Mr. Johnson, and of his three children by the Indians was the melancholy cause of his losses, and of the abandonment of the place.*

Upon the dispersion of the French settlers from Oxford, it appears, that many, if not most of them, came to Boston. From the distinction which many of the families attained in the metropolis it may be fairly inferred, that they approved themselves to the citizens, whose hospitality they experienced, and to whose encouragement and patronage they must have been greatly indebted for their subsequent prosperity. They appear to have adhered to the principles, and, so far as they were able, to have maintained the institutions of religion, according to the Reformed church in France. It was *for* their religion that they suffered in their native country; and to enjoy its privileges, unmolested, they fled into the wilderness. While at Oxford, they enjoyed the ministrations of a French Protestant minister.† Of their religious affairs, however, we have no distinct account, until their settlement in Boston, after the Indian Massacre in 1696.

It is well known that the French refugees had a church of their own in Boston, where they, for many years, attended divine service. The Rev. Peter Daille was their first minister; and he was highly esteemed. He was succeeded by the Rev. Andrew Le Mercier, who is described as " a worthy character." He was the author of " The Church History of Geneva, and a Political and Geographical Account of that Republic," printed at Boston, in 1732. By intermarriages and otherwise, it appears that, in process of time, the French families became so blended with the other inhabitants of the town, as to render a separate and distinct religious service either unnecessary, or impracticable; for, in the life time of Mr.

* See APPENDIX, C. † See APPENDIX, D.

Le Merceir, their church was, for some years, unoccupied, and at length, sold for the use of a new Congregational church.*

Whether the French exiles never dared to return to the plantation from which they fled in such terror and dismay, or whether they became so advantageously settled in Boston as not to wish to return, or whatever were the cause, they never did, as a body return to Oxford. Permanent inhabitance, it may be presumed, had been a condition of the grant; for the lands of that township reverted to the original proprietors. By the Records of the town, under the date of 1713, it appears that the French settlers had "many years since wholly left and deserted their settlements in the said village;" that, upon public proclamation, they had refused to return; and that most of them had voluntarily surrendered their lands. The proprietors having recited these facts, and farther stated, that "there were sundry good families of her majesty's subjects within this province, who offer themselves to go and resettle the said village, whereby they may be serviceable to the province, and the end and design of the original grant aforesaid be answered and attained," proceed to grant and convey these lands to several persons and others, their associates, "so as their number amount to thirty at least." The instrument of this conditional grant is dated the 8th of July, 1713. The requisite number of associates was obtained; and, about a year and a half after the above date, a distribution was made by lot among the thirty families.†

There are but few relicks, or memorials, of the French settlement, now to be found in Oxford. Of these the most interesting are to be seen on a very high hill which lies in the southwest part of the town, and commands a beautiful and extensive prospect. The village of Oxford beneath, and the rural scenery around, are delightful. The hill is about a mile south of that part of the village, at which is the junction of two great roads leading from Boston, one through Westborough and Sutton, and the other through Marlborough and Worcester; and, after uniting in one at Oxford, passing through Dudley, Woodstock, Brooklyn, and other towns, to Norwich, in Connecticut. It is called Mayo's Hill, and sometimes Fort Hill, from a fort, built on its summit by the French Protestants. The farm, on which the remains of the fort are, is owned by Mr. John Mayo, whose grandfather, of Roxbury, was the original purchaser. The fort is a few rods from the dwelling house. It was evidently constructed in the regular form, with bas-

* See APPENDIX, E. † See APPENDIX, F.

tions, and had a well within its enclosure. Grape vines, in 1819, were growing luxuriantly along the line of the fort; and these, together with currant bushes, roses, and other shrubbery, nearly formed a hedge around it. There were some remains of an apple orchard. The current and asparagus were still growing there. These, with the peach, were of spontaneous growth from the French plantation; but the last of the peach trees were destroyed by the memorable gale of 1815.

Of the French refugees, who settled in the other American colonies, we have but imperfect accounts. It is well known that many of them, at the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and afterwards, settled in New York, Virginia, and Carolina.*

New Rochelle, in the state of New York, was settled by French Protestant emigrants from Rochelle, in France. A French Protestant Episcopal church was founded in the city of New York by the French Huguenots, soon after the Revocation. Between these refugees and those who came to Massachusetts, it appears by the Bernon papers, there was some correspondence. The historian of New York, about the middle of the last century, says, "The French church, by the contentions in 1724, and the disuse of the language, is now reduced to an inconsiderable handful. The building, which is of stone, nearly a square, plain both within and without. It is fenced from the street, has a steeple and a bell, the latter of which was the gift of Sir Henry Ashurst of London."† M. Pierre Antonie Albert was a rector of this church in our day. He died in 1806, in the forty first year of his age.

In 1690, king William sent a large body of French Protestants to Virginia; to whom were assigned lands on the banks of James river, which they soon improved into excellent estates.

Among the colonies in America, which reaped advantage from the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, Carolina had a large share. Many of the French refugees, having purchased lands from the proprietors, embarked with their families for that colony, and proved to be some of its best and most industrious inhabitants.

*See NOTE V.

†Smith's New York. On the front of the church is the following inscription:

ÆDES SACRA
GALLOR. PROT.
REFORM.
FVNDA. 1704.
PENITVS
REPAR. 1741.

These purchasers made a settlement on Santee river; others, who were merchants and mechanics, took up their residence in Charleston, and followed their different occupations. Carolina had begun to be settled but fifteen years before the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes; and these new settlers were a great acquisition to that colony.† It is worthy of remark, that, more than a century before, Admiral Coligny had attempted a settlement of French Protestants in the territory now called Carolina, then Florida; and that, at length, under the auspices of the English, this same country became an asylum for them, as it had been originally intended by Coligny.

It should heighten our respect for the French emigrants, and our interest in their history, to be reminded of the distinguished services, which their descendants have rendered to our country, and to the cause of civil and religious liberty. Gabriel Manigault, of South Carolina, assisted this country, which had been the asylum of his parents, with a loan of $220,000 for carrying on its revolutionary struggle for liberty and independence. This was done at an early period of the contest, when no man was certain, whether it would terminate in a revolution or rebellion." Of the nine presidents of the old congress, which conducted the United States through the revolutionary war, three were descendants of French Protestant refugees, who had emigrated to America in consequence of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. These were, Henry Laurens, of South Carolina, John Jay, of New York, and Elias Boudinot, of New Jersey.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

The lapse of a century since the resettlement of Oxford, by the ancestors of its present inhabitants, has nearly obliterated the remembrance of the fact of its original settlement by the French. A river, which runs through the town, does indeed bear up their name; but *why* it was so called, if known there, is scarcely known in the vicinity. The river runs about three quarters of a mile west of the great road that leads over Oxford plain, and falls into the Quinebaug in the town of Thompson, in Connecticut. The Quinebaug I had known from early life, as passing through Oxford, and Thompson, and joining the Shetucket at Norwich; but

†Smith Hist. New York. Allen's Biog. Dict. *Art.* ALBERT. Beverly's Hist. of Virginia. Hewatt's S. Carolina, i. 94. Ramsay's Hist. S. Carolina, i. 10.

this smaller stream, the bridge over which is at a considerable distance below the village of Oxford, had not attracted my particular notice. In passing it, nine years ago, seeing a boy near the bridge, I asked him, What is the name of this river? "French river," he replied. Why, I asked, is it called *French* river? "I believe," said he, "there was some French people once here"—pointing up the stream. On my arrival at the village, I inquired of Mr. Campbell, the innkeeper, who gave me sufficient information on the subject to excite farther inquiry, and to render all the subsequent labor of investigation delightful. Mr. Campbell was of the family of the Rev. Mr. Campbell, formerly a respectable minister of Oxford. Having married a daughter of Mrs. Butler, who was a descendant of one of the French settlers, he referred me for information to his wife, who after telling me all that she knew, referred me to her mother. I waited upon Mrs. Butler, who obligingly told me all that she could recollect concerning the French emigrants.

Mrs. Butler was the wife of Mr. James Butler, who lives near the first church in Oxford; and, when I saw her, was in the seventy-fifth year of her age. Her original name was Mary Sigourney. She was a granddaughter of Mr. Andrew Sigourney, who came over when young, with his father, from Rochelle. Her grandmother's mother died on the voyage, leaving an infant of only six months (who was the grandmother of Mrs. Butler,) and another daughter, Mary Cazneau, who was then six years of age. The information which Mrs. Butler gave me, she received from her grandmother, who lived to about the age of eighty-three, and from her grandmother's sister, who lived to the age of ninety-five or ninety six years.

Mrs. Butler's Reminiscences.

The refugees left France, in 1684, or 1685,* with the utmost trepidation and precipitancy. The great grandfather of Mrs. Butler, Mr. Germaine, gave the family notice that they *must go.* They came off with secrecy, with whatever clothes they could put upon the children, and left the pot boiling over the fire. When they arrived at Boston, they went directly to Fort Hill, where they were provided for; and there they continued until they went to Oxford. They built one fort on Mayo's hill, on the east side of French river; and, tradition says, another fort on the west side. Mrs. Butler believed, they had a minister with them.

* Mrs. Butler's account was entirely verbal, according to her recollection. Mrs. Butler died in 1823, Ætat. LXXXI.

Mrs. Johnson, the wife of Mr. Johnson who was killed by the Indians in 1696, was a sister of the first Andrew Sigourney. Her husband, returning home from Woodstock while the Indians were massacring his family, was shot down at his own door. Mr. Sigourney, hearing the report of the guns, ran to the house, and seizing his sister, pulled her out at a back door, and took her over French river, which they waded through, and fled towards Woodstock, where there was a garrison. The Indians killed the children, dashing them against the jambs of the fire-place.

Mrs. Butler thinks, the French were at Oxford eighteen or nineteen years. Her grandmother who was brought over an infant, was married, and had a child, while at Oxford. This fact would lead us to believe that the Sigourney family returned to Oxford after the fear of the Indians had subsided. It is believed in Oxford, that a few families did return. These families may have returned again to Boston in about nineteen years from the time of their first set tlement in Oxford, agreeably to Mrs. Butler's opinion; in which case, the time coincides with that of the erection of the first French church in Boston, 1704–5. Mr. Andrew Sigourney, who furnished the written materials for this Memoir, still lives on or near the place that was occupied by his ancestors.

Mrs. Butler lived in Boston until the American revolution, and soon afterwards removed to Oxford. Her residence in both places rendered her more familiar with the history of the emigrants than she would have been, had she resided exclusively in either. She says, they prospered in Boston, after they were broken up at Oxford. Of the memorials of the primitive plantation of her ancestors she had been very observant, and still cherished a reverence for them. Mrs. Shumway, of French extraction, living near the Johnson house, showed her the spot where the house stood, and some of its remains. Col. Jeremiah Kingsbury, about fifty-five years of age [1817,] has seen the chimney and other remains of that house. His mother, aged about eighty-four years, told Mrs. Butler that there was a burying place, called "The French Burying Ground," not far from the fort at Mayo's Hill. She herself remembers to have seen many graves there.

French Families.

Mrs. Butler named as of the first emigrants from France, the following families:

Bowdoin, and Boudinot came to Boston:—could not say, whether or not they came to Oxford.

Bowyer, who married a Sigourney.

Germaine :—removed to New York.

Oliver :—did not know whether this family came to Oxford, or not; but the ancestor, by the mother's side, was a Sigourney.

Sigourney. Andrew Sigourney, son of the first emigrant of that name, was born in Oxford, and died in 1763, aged sixty years He was the uncle of Mrs. Butler, my informant; of the late Martin Brimmer, Esq. of Boston, and Mr. Andrew Brimmer, still living; and of the late Hon. Samuel Dexter, of Boston.

No branch of the Bowdoin family is known to have been settled south of New England. Governor Bowdoin left one daughter, the lady of Sir John Temple, sometime consul general of Great Britain in the United States. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John and Lady Temple, was married to the Hon. Thomas L. Winthrop, Esq. of Boston, a member of the senate of Massachusetts, and now (April, 1826) candidate for lieutenant governor. Mrs. Winthrop died in 1825. In that truly honorable lady were combined dignity with ease, intellectual with polite accomplishments, benevolence of temper with beneficence in action, Christian principles with the Christian graces. One of the sons, Francis William Winthrop, a young man highly distinguished as a scholar, and of very fair promise, was graduated at Harvard College in 1817, but died soon after he had finished his education. Another son, James, who, since the death of his uncle James Bowdoin, has taken his name, is the only representative of the Bowdoins, of that name, now living in New England.

Some future antiquary may perhaps trace the original name to the famous Baldwin, king of Jerusalem, who, according to French authority, spelt his name precisely as the first of this family in America, *Baudouin*. He died in 1118, and his remains were deposited in a church on Mount Calvary. Fleury, in his Histoire Ecclesiastique, Edit. 1779, gives an account of nineteen eminent persons, from the "compte de Flanders," A. D. 862, to Baudouin, "jurisconsulte," A. D. 1561, whose names are uniformly written *Baudouin*.

The Hon. Samuel Dexter, senior, father of the late Mr. Dexter, who married a Sigourney, was a member of the first provincial congress in Massachusetts, and founder of the Dexter professorship of Sacred Literature in the University in Cambridge. Soon after the commencement of the revolutionary war, he removed with his family to Woodstock, in Connecticut. He had a large library,

which attracted much attention at the time of its removal; and he was greatly devoted to the use of it in his retirement, to the close of his life. He was a gentleman of a highly respectable character, possessed of a handsome estate, and enjoyed, far beyond most literary men in our country, *otium cum dignitate.* He spent a few of his last years at Mendon, in Massachusetts, where he died in 1810; but his remains were interred, according to the directions of his Will, at Woodstock. I have seen the lot in which he was buried, not far from the first church in my native town; but no sign of his grave can be traced. It was his own directions, that his body should be interred in the exact centre of the lot, and the grave levelled on the surface, and the whole lot cultivated alike, that no distinction might be perceived. There is a good portrait of Mr. Dexter at the Library of our University. Mrs. Dexter I well remember while at Woodstock. She was a respectable lady, of dark complexion, with characteristic French features, and pronunciation.

Very soon after my visit to Mrs. Butler, I received a letter from her husband, expressing her regret, that she had not mentioned to me Mrs. Wheeler, a widow lady, the mother of Mr. Joseph Coolidge, an eminent merchant in Boston. Her maiden name was Oliver. She was a branch of the Germaine family, and related to "old Mr. Andrew Sigourney," in whose family she was brought up, and at whose house she was married. Mrs. Butler supposed, she must be between eighty and ninety years of age, and that, being so much older than herself, she had heard more particulars from their ancestors; but, on inquiry for Mrs. Wheeler in Boston I found that she died a short time before the reception of the letter.

How much do we lose by neglecting the advice of the Son of Sirach!—"Miss not the discourse of the elders; for they also learned of their fathers, and of them thou shalt learn understanding, and to give answer as need requireth."

Remains of the French Fort.

My first visit to Fort Hill in Oxford was 20th April, 1819. It is about a mile southerly of the inn, kept many years by the Campbell family, at the union of the two great roads from Boston and Worcester, about fifty miles from Boston. Mr. Mayo, who owns the farm on which the fort stands, believes, that his grandfather purchased it of one of the French families; and Mr. Sigourney, of Oxford, thinks it was bought of his ancestor, Andrew Sigourney. I measured the fort by paces, and found it 25 paces by 35. With-

in the fort, on the east side, I discovered signs of a well; and on inquiry, was informed that a well had been recently filled up there.

On a second visit to the Fort, in September of the same year, I was accompanied, and aided in my researches, by the Rev. Mr. Brazer, then a Professor in our University, who went over from Worcester, and met me, by agreement, in Oxford. We traced the lines of the bastions of the fort, and were regaled with the perfumes of the shrubbery, and the grapes then hanging in clusters on the vines, planted by the Huguenots above a century before.* Every thing here, said Mr. Mayo, is left as I found it.

We next went in search of the Johnson place, memorable for the Indian massacre in 1696. Mr. Peter Shumway, a very aged man, of French descent, who lives about thirty rods distant from it, showed us the spot. It is at a considerable distance from the village, on the north side of the road to Dudley, and is now overgrown with trees. We carefully explored it, but found no relicks. The last year (1825) I called at Mr. Shumway's. He told me, that he was in his ninety-first year; that his great grandfather was from France; and that the plain, on which he lives, is called "Johnson's Plain."

While Mr. Brazer was prosecuting our inquiries concerning a second fort, and a church, that had been mentioned to me by Mrs. Butler, he received a letter (1819) from Mr. Andrew Sigourney, informing, that captain Humphrey, of Oxford, says, his parents told him, there was a fort on the land upon which he now lives, and also a French meeting-house, and a burying ground, with a number of graves; that he had seen the stones that were laid on the top of them, as we lay turf, and that one of the graves was much larger than any of the others; that *they* were east and west, but *this*, north and south; and that the Frenchman who lived in this place, named Bourdine, had been dead but a few years.

In May, 1825, I visited captain Ebenezer Humphrey, and obtained from him satisfactory information concerning the place of this second fort, and the meeting house, and the burying ground. Captain Humphrey was in his eighty-fourth year. He told me, that his grandfather was from England, and that his father was from Woodstock, and came to Oxford to keep garrison. He him-

* The following fact has been communicated to the writer of the memoir by Mr. Sigourney. A bill of lading, dated London, March 5, 1687, of a variety of merchandize, &c. shipped on board the ship John and Elizabeth, mentions among the rest, "two chests of vine *plants*, marked X 5 X," and were to be delivered "to Mr. Daniel Stading, or Petre a Sailes."

self now lives where his father lived, about half a mile south east from Oxford village. His house is near a mill, standing upon a small stream that runs on the left near the great road leading to Norwich. About fifty or sixty rods from his house, he showed me the spot where the fort stood, and, near it, the lot upon which were the meeting-house and burying ground. No remains of either were visible. He pointed to an excavation of the earth, where, he said, was a well, which had been filled up. It was at the place of the fort, and had been, probably, within it. In the lot there were apple trees, which, he told me, he heard his father say, "the French set out." His father must have been a competent witness; for he was seventy years old when he told him this, and he himself was then twenty years of age. The field was under fine cultivation; but I could not forbear to express my regret, that the memorials of the dead had not been preserved. He said an older brother of his had ploughed up the field, and it was in this state when it came into his possession. He told me, that one of his oldest sisters said, she remembered the old horseblock, that stood near the French meeting-house. He said, he had seen the blood on the stones of the Johnson house; and that Mrs. Johnson, on the night of the massacre, went to Woodstock. Bourdille (so he pronounced it) lived near the brook, which runs by his house. The land of captain Humphrey, upon which were a French fort, and church, and burying ground, lies near the foot of Mayo's hill, on the summit of which stood the great Fort, whose remains are still to be seen.

Of this interesting place we feel reluctant to take leave, without some token of remembrance, beside the mere recital of facts some of which are dry in the detail, while many others are but remotely associated with it. Were any monumental stone to be found here, other memorials were less necessary. Were the cypress, or the weeping willow, growing here, nothing might seem wanting, to perpetuate the memory of the dead. Any contributions of the living, even at this late period, towards supplying the defect, seem entitled to preservation. The inquiries and researches of visitants from abroad drew the attention of the villagers at home. In 1822, the writer of the Memoir received a MS. Poem on the French exiles, superscribed "Oxford;" anonymous, but apparently from a female pen. It was of considerable length, and not equally sustained throughout; but the tender and respectful regard shown by the writer to those excellent pilgrims, who left "not a stone to

tell where they lie," and her just reflections upon the value of religious liberty, and the iniquity and horrors of tyranny, entitle her to high estimation. Many lines do honor to her genius, and all of them to her sensibility. If she is a descendant from the Huguenots, this is a tribute of filial piety; if not, it is an oblation of generous sympathy.

The same year a letter was also received from a lady, well known in our literary community, enclosing a poetical tribute to the memory of the Huguenots of Oxford, which is not less worthy of her pen, than of her connexion.* Her marriage with a worthy descendant of one of the first French families that settled in Oxford, fairly entitled her to the subject, which her pen will perpetuate, should the Memoir be forgotten. A leaf of the grape vine was enclosed in the letter, which has this conclusion: "We received great pleasure from our visit to Oxford, and as we traced the ruins of the first rude fortress erected by our ancestors, the present seemed almost to yield in reality to the past. I send you a leaf from the vine, which still flourishes in luxuriance, which, I am sorry to say, resembles our own natives of the woods a little too strongly. Something beside, I also send you, which savours as little of the Muse's inspiration, as the vine in question does of foreign extraction; but if poetical license can find affinities for the latter, I trust your goodness will extend its mantle over the infirmity of the former."

On visiting a Vine among the ruins of the French fort at Oxford, (Mass.) supposed to have been planted by the Huguenots, who made settlements at that place, when they fled from their native country, after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1685.

Say, did thy germ e'er drink the fostering dews
Of beauteous Languedoc?—Didst thou unfold
Thy latent fibre 'neath the genial skies
Of smiling Rousillon?—or fragrant hang
In purple cluster from some fruitful vine
Of fair Rochelle?—Perchance thy infant leaves
Have trembled at the bitter sigh of those
Whom Tyranny oppress'd, or shuddering caught
That silent tear which suffering Virtue sheds
In loneliness—that tear which witnesseth
To the high Judge.—Not by rash, thoughtless hands
Who sacrifice to Bacchus, pouring forth
Libations at his altar, with wild songs
Hailing his madden'd orgies, wert thou borne

* Mrs. L. Huntley Sigourney.

To foreign climes—but with the suffering band
Of pious Huguenots didst dare the wave,
When they essay'd to plant Salvation's vine
In the drear wilderness. Pensive they mark'd
The everlasting forest's gloomy shade,
The uncultur'd vale, the snow-invested heath
Tracked by the vengeful native; yet to rear
Their Temple to the Eternal Sire, and pay
Unfetter'd homage to his name were joy,
Though on their hymn of praise the desert howl'd.
The savage arrow scath'd them, and dark clouds
Involv'd their infant Zion, yet they bore
Toil and affliction with unwavering eye
Fix'd on the heavens, and firm in hope sublime
Sank to their last repose.—Full many a son
Among the noblest of our land, looks back
Through Time's long vista, and exulting claims
These as his Sires.—They sleep in mouldering dust,
But thou, fair Vine, in beauteous verdure bloom'st
O'er Man's decay. Wooing thy tendril green
Springs the wild Rose, as if it fain would twine
Wreaths for its native soil.—And well it may;
For here dwells Liberty and laurelled Peace
Lending to life new lustre, and with dews
Etherial bathing Nature's charms. The child
Of Poverty feels here no vassalage, nor shrinks
From Persecution's scourge. The simplest hind,
Whether he homeward guides his weary team,
Beneath the evening star, or whistling leads
To pastures fresh with morn his snowy sheep,
Bears on his brow in deepen'd characters
"Knowledge is Power."—He too, with filial eye
Unchecked, undimm'd, marks blest Religion come,
In simple mildness, binding on the heart
Her law of love, gilding each gather'd cloud
Of varied sentiment, that o'er the dust
Of Earth's low confine hangs—with beams serene
From that bright Sun which shall hereafter blend
All fleeting shades in one effulgent smile
Of Immortality.

APPENDIX TO THE FOREGOING MEMOIR.

[B. Page 347.]

The paper containing the "Delineation of the Town of Oxford" is endorsed, "Papiers qui regarde New Oxford." The chirography is evidently French. With the delineation there is an

account of the village and town, in the following words: "Oxford Village or the general Plantation containing 11,245 acres, whereof the proprietors common Way 265 acres, and Mauchaug in deficient, 172... 437. Rest 10808 acres.—The town of Oxford, including its village, called the General Plantation, containes 41245 acres, viz. the five grand lotts. On the W. side of the dividing line, each 3000... 15000, and on the East side thereof.. each 3000... 15000.

The Village Plantation .. 11245. The 41245 general."

Nipmuck river (called by the English settlers of New England, *Blackstone*) takes its rise in Sutton, and receiving several tributary streams in its course, falls into Providence river just below Providence. It is there called Pawtucket. When the French settled Oxford, there was a town of praying Indians at Hassanamesitt [Grafton,] about two miles to the eastward of Nipmuck river, "and near unto the old road way to Connecticut," consisting of about twelve families, and about sixty souls. "Here," says Gookin,* "they have a meeting house for the worship of God, after the English fashion of building, and two or three other houses after the same mode. In this town was the second Indian church (Natick being the first) gathered in 1671; and three years afterwards there were in full communion in this church, and living in the town, about sixteen men and women; and about thirty baptized persons, and several other members living in other places. The church had a pastor, Tackuppawillin, a ruling elder, and a deacon. In 1674 the Rev. John Eliot and general Gookin, visited "the new praying towns in the Nipmuck country. The first of these," says Gookin, "is Mauchage, [Oxford,] which lieth to the westward of Nipmuck river about eight miles, and is from Hassanamesitt, west and by south, about ten miles; and it is from Boston about fifty miles. To it belongeth about twelve families and about sixteen souls. For this place we appointed Waaberktamin, a hopeful young man for their minister. There is no land yet granted by the general court to this place, nor to any other of the praying towns. But the court intendeth shortly, upon the application and professed subjection of those Indians unto the yoke of Christ, to do for them as they have done for other praying Indians." Gookin's Hist. Collections of the Indians in New England, printed in Coll. Mass. Hist. Society, in 1792.

*A. D. 1674.

C.

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Nous sousignes certiffions et ateston que Monsr. Gabriel Bernon non a fait une despance [depense] considerable a new oxford pour faire valoir la Ville et encourager et ayder les habitans. et quil [qu'il] a tenu sa maison en etat jusques a ce que en fin les Sauvages soient venus masacrer et tuer Iohn Johnson et ses trois enfens [enfans let que netant [n' etant] pas soutenu Il a été obligé et force d' abandoner son Bien. en foy de quoy lui avons signe le present Billet, a Baston le 4e Septembre 1696:

Jermons Baudouin Benja faneuil

Jacques Montier Nous attestons ce qui est desus et
† marque [est] veritable.
X marque depaix cazaneau

Mousset Entien [Ancien]

V marque de abraham Sauuage

Jean Rawlings Ancien

*marque de la vefue de Jean Jeanson

P. Chardon
Charle Germon Entien

Nous certiffions que ce sont les marques de personnes susdites.

Daillé ministre Baudouin
Jacques Montier Barbut
Elie Dupeux André Sigournay
Jean Maillet Jean Millet ant.

Nous declarons ce que dessus fort veritable ce que John Johnson et ces trois enfans ont eté tué le 25e. Auost [Aout] 1696: en foy de quoy avons signé

Montel Dispeux I B marque de Jean baudoin
Jacques Depont Philip [*obscure*]
Jermon René Grignon

Je connois et Je le say d' experiance que mr. Gabriel bernon a fait ses efforts pour soutenir notre plantation, et y a depancé pour cet effet un bien considerable.

Bureau L'ainé [*The elder or senior.*]
Peter Canton.

We underwritten doe certifie and attest that mr. Gabriel Bernon hath made considerable expences at Newoxford for to promote the the place and incourage the Inhabitants and hath kept his house

until the s^d^. 25^e^. August that the Indians came upon s^d^. Plantation & most barbarously murthered John Evans John Johnson & and his three childrens. Dated Baston 20^th^ Septemb. 1696.

John Usher

W^m^. Stoughton
Increase Mather
Charles Morton
Jer. Dummer
Nehemiah Walter min^r^.
W^m^. Fox.

John Butcher
Laur. Hammond

D.

[Page 349.]

That the French settlers at Oxford had a minister of their own, appears from a letter, written by him to some person in authority [probably gov. Dudley,] complaining of the sale of rum to the Indians, "without order and measure," and of its baneful effects. The date is lost, with a line or two at the beginning; but is endorsed, "M^r^. Dan^l^. Bondet's Representation referring to N. Oxford July 6^th^ 1691." He mentions it as upon "an occasion which fills my heart with sorrow and my life of trouble, but my humble request will be at least before God, and before you a solemn protestation against the guilt of those incorrigible persons who dwell in our place. The rome [rum] is always sold to the Indians without order and measure, insomuch that according the complaint sent to me by master Dickestean with advice to present it to your honor. The 26 of the last month there was about twenti indians so furious by drunkness that they fought like bears and fell upon one called remes ....., who is appointed for preaching the gospel amongst them he had been so much disfigured by his wonds that there is no hope of his recovery. If it was your pleasure to signifie to the instrumens of that evil the jalosie of your athoriti and of the publique tranquility, you would do great good maintaining the honor of God, in a Christian habitation, conforting some honest souls wich being incompatible with such abominations feel every day the burden of afflixion of their honorable perigrination aggravated. Hear us pray and so God be with you and prosper all your just undertakins and applications tis the sincere wish of your most respectuous servant

D. Bondet
minister of the gospell in a
French Congregation at newoxford."

The government probably interfered, and took measures to prevent the repetition of the evil complained of. The above paper was found in the Secretary's office, and shown to me by Mr. secretary Bradford, who, at my request, searched the government papers, in aid of my inquiries. The "representation of the *minister* may have induced the government to appoint him a missionary to the natives in the neighborhood of Oxford; for, in another communication, Mr. Bradford informed me: "In 1695, Mr. Bondet, a French Protestant minister, preached to the Nipmug Indians . . . in the south of Worcester county."

E.

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LETTERS AND PAPERS FROM THE BERNON MSS.
IN THE POSSESSION OF PHILIP ALLEN, ESQ. OF PROVIDENCE.

Letter from Gov. Dudley to G. Bernon, dated,
"Roxbury April 6, 1715."

"Sir,

We are now in a way to thrive at Oxford, and I particularly thank you for what you have done towards a Grist Mill in the Village, by giving the mill stones and irons to Daniel Eliot, conditionally that the mill should be built to serve the town within such a perfixed time which is now past and nothing done. I desire you to write to him to go forward immediately so as to finish the mill presently to the satisfaction of the Inhabitants, or that you will order the said mill and irons to be given to such other person as will go forward in the work, that they may not be starved the next winter.

I pray you to take effectual order in the matter.

I am your humble servant,
J. Dudley."

Superscribed
"To Mr. Gabriel Bernon
Narraganset"

The answer of Mr. Bernon is dated "Kingstown 30 April, 1715." He writes, that, according to the letter from his excellency, he had "ordered Mr. Daniel Eliot to finish the Crist Mill at Oxford, or to let the town have the two mill stown to set the mill in a convenient place. It will be a great blessing to strive [thrive] after so much distorbance: And if I can but have the freinship and charity

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of your Excellency in my old time, with a young wife and a second family in this New World, I may be happy and blessed." . . . . . In a petition, afterwards, to Gov. Shute, he says, . . . "being now near 80 years of age, and having several children by my first wife, and so seeing children of my children. I have since married an English woman, by whom also I have several children," &c. . . . .

By a statement of G. Bernon, intended to prove his claim upon the plantation, it appears, that he considered "the Plantation of New Oxford" indebted to him for 2500 acres of land, besides the amount of expenses laid out by him upon the place. This claim appears to have been made about the year 1717, or 1720; for on his account there is a charge of interest "for above 30 years." The statement alleges, that 500 acres of the plantation were "granted by their Excellencys M^r. Dudley and M^r. Stoughton to Isaac Bertrand Du Tuffeau and Gabriel Bernon in the year 1687," and that 250 acres were "granted since, making in all 750 aikers;" and that "their Excellencys M^r. Dudley and M^r. Stoughton did grant to the said M^r. Bernon for his own use alone 1750 aikers more, which makes in all 2500 aikers, which M^r. Bernon justly claims, upon which he hath built a corn miln, a wash leathern miln, and a saw miln, and laid out some other considerable expences to improve the town of New Oxford, as he has made appear by the testimonys of several worthy gentlemen whose names he has hitherto subjoined.

The four elders of the French Church
Mousset, Railing, Charden, Babut } Daillie ministre of the French Church.

William Fox
Benj. Faneuil
P. Jermon
Jacques Montier
Paix Cazaneau
Abraham Sauvages
Jacque Depau
Jean Beaudoin
Rean Grignon
Phelippe Emgerland

Governor Usher
William Stoughton
Increase Mather mtre.
Charles Morton mtre.
Jer. Dummer
Nehemiah Walter minr.
John Butcher
Laurence Hammond.

By the Inhabitanc of New Oxford.

Montel
J. Dupen
Capt. Jermon
Peter Cante
Bereau Caëini
Elie Dupeu

Ober Jermon
Jean Maillet
Andre Segourne
Jean Milleton
Peter Canton
&c.

The Weidow Leveufe Jean Johnson of which her husband and three children was kil and murder by the Ingen."

By a plan of Mr. Gabriel Bernon's land in Oxford, taken in 1717, it appears, that it measured 2672 acres, "exclusive of M^r. Daniel Bondet's of 200 acres, and out of said 2672 acres must come out

172 acres of meadow in one entire piece, which Mr. Dudley and Compa. give to the village." The tract of land "within this Plan" was estimated by the selectmen of Oxford "to be worth one thousand pound;" and this valuation was certified by them on the plan, 11 January 1716–17. *Signed*, Richard Moore, Benoni Twitchel, Isaac Larned. Another certificate was given on the same paper by the selectmen of Mendon, concerning the justness of the above valuation, adding, "that we know nothing but the said Bernon hath been in the quiet possession of said land for or nere thirty years." *Signed*, Thomas Sanford, Robert Evans, Jacob Aldrich.

By another paper in the MS. Collection, it appears, that Mr. Bernon petitioned the king in council for certain privileges, which indicate the objects to which the enterprize of this adventurer was directed. It is entitled, "The humble Petition of Gabriel Bernon of Boston in New England." It states: "That being informed of your Majesty's pleasure, particularly in encouraging the manufactory of Rosin, Pitch, Tarr, Turpentine, &c. in New England, in which manufactory your Petitioner has spent seaven years time and labor and considerable sums of money and has attained to such knowledge and perfection, as that the said comodities made and sent over by him have beene here approved of and bought for your Majesty's stores; your Petitioner's zeal and affection to your Majesty encouraged him to leave his habitation and affairs (being a merchant) and also his family to make a voyage to England on purpose humbly to propose to your Majesty in how great a measure and cheap price the said Navall stores may be made and brought into any of your Majesty's kingdomes to the great promotion and advantage of the Trade and Commerce of your Majesty's subjects of New England, all which is most evident by the annexed paper." He prays his Majesty to take the premises into consideration, and to grant him his royal patent or order for providing and furnishing his Majesty's fleet with the said stores under the conditions his Majesty in his royal wisdom should think fit, or otherwise to except him out of any patent to be granted for the said manufactory, that he "may have liberty to go on and continue in the said manufactory in any part of New England."

This paper is endorsed: "Peticon Gabriel Bernon."

"Papiers qui regarde deux voyages de Londre pour les affaires a fabriques des Resme. Examne le premier Octobre 1719."

In 1720, Gabriel Bernon, "of New Oxford in New England," presented a petition to his excellency governor Shute, and to his

Majesty's council, and house of representatives in General Court assembled. In this petition he states, that he was "one of the most ancient families in Rochel in France; that upon the breach of the Edict of Nantes, to shun the persecution of France he fled to London; that upon his arrival, ———Teffereau, Esq. treasurer of the Protestant churches of France presented him to the honorable society for propagating the gospel among the Indians in New England; that Mr. Thompson the governor [president] offered to "instal him in the said society," and offered him land in the government of the Massachusetts Bay; whereupon Isaac Bertrand Du Tuffeau desired him "to assist him to come over to New England to settle a plantation for their refuge," that he did advance him such sums, as, "with the exchange and interest from that time, would amount to above one thousand pounds; that Du Tuffeau, arriving at Boston with letters of credit from Major Thompson and himself, "delivered them to his late excellency Joseph Dudley, Esq. and the honorable William Stoughton, Esq. deceased, who granted to the said Du Tuffeau 750 acres of land for the petitioner at New Oxford, where he laid out or spent the abovesaid money." Mr. Bernon farther stated in his petition, that Du Tuffeau allured him by letters to come to Boston: that the said Du Tuffeau, "being through poverty forced to abandon the said plantation, sold his cattle and other moveables for his own particular use, went to London, and there died in an hospital." Mr. Bernon closed his statement by observing, that, excited by letters of Du Tuffeau, he shipped himself, his family, and servants, with some other families, and paid passage for above forty persons; that, on their arrival at Boston, he presented letters from Major Thompson to Dudley and Stoughton, Esquires, "who were pleased (besides the 750 acres that were granted to Bertrand Du Tuffeau and the petitioner) to grant him 1750 acres of land more; and," he adds, "for a more authentick security his late Excellency and Honour was pleased to accompany me to Oxford, to put me in possession of the said two thousand five hundred acres, which I have peaceably enjoyed for better than these thirty years last past, having spent above two thousand pounds to defend the same from the *Indians*, who at divers times have ruined the said Plantation, and have murdered men, women, and children."

At the close of the petition he represents, that the inhabitants of New Oxford now disputed his right and title, in order to hinder him from the sale of said plantation, which would put him to the

utmost extremity, "being now near eighty years of age," and having several children, all which have dependence, under GOD, for a subsistence on him, after he had "spent more than ten thousand pounds towards the benefit of the country, in building ships, making nails, and promoting the making of stuffs, hats, rozin &c." The object of this petition was, to obtain such titles, as would confirm to him and his family the said lands, "without any misunderstanding, clear and free from any molestation either from the inhabitants of New Oxford, or any pretensions of Bertrand Du Tuffeau."

Neither the merits, nor the success, of this claim are known to the writer of this memoir.

F.

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SECOND SETTLEMENT OF OXFORD.

Copy of a Deed conveying the Lands in Oxford to the second Company of Settlers, 1713.

Exracted from the Records of the town of Oxford at Mr. Campbell's the town Clerk, by A. H. 1817.

"To all people unto whom these presents shall come Joseph Dudley of Roxbury in the county of Suffolk and Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Esq. W^m^. Taylor of Dorchester in the same county Esq. Peter Sergeant of Boston aforesaid Esq. and Mehetabell his wife, John Danforth of Dorchester aforesaid and Elizabeth his wife, John Nelson of Boston aforesaid Esq. and Elizabeth his wife, as they the said W^m^. Taylor, Peter Sargeant, John Nelson and John Danforth are the heirs and executors of the Hon. W^m^. Stoughton late of Dorchester Esq. deceased, send greeting: Whereas the General Court of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in the year One thousand six hundred and eighty two granted to the said Joseph Dudley, W^m^. Stoughton, major Robert Tompson and their Associates a certain tract of land scituate in the Nipmug Country, of eight miles square, for a Township &c. as may be seen more at large by the Records of said General Court, Pursuant whereunto and for the uses aforesaid the said Joseph Dudley W^m^. Stoughton and their Associates in the year one thousand six hundred eighty and brought over thirty French Protestant Families into this country, and settled them upon the easternmost part or end of the said Tract of land, and severed, granted, and sett apart 12000 acres for a village called Oxford for the said Families,

and bounded it as by a Platt upon Record will manifestly appear: But forasmuch as the said French families have many years since wholly left and deserted their settlements in the said Village, and the said lands as well by their deserting the same, and refusing to return upon public Proclamations made for that end, as by the voluntary surrender of most of them are now reinvested in, restored to, and become the estate and at the disposition of the original proprietors their heirs and successors for the ends aforesaid. And whereas there are sundry good families of her majesty's subjects within this province who offer themselves to go and resettle the said village whereby they may be serviceable to the province and the end and design of the original grant aforesaid be answered and attained: Now Know Ye, That the said Joseph Dudley, W^m^. Taylor, Peter Sergeant and Mehetabell his wife, John Nelson and Elizabeth his wife, and John Danforth and Elizabeth his wife, for and in consideration and to the uses and intents abovementioned, Have fully, freely, and absolutely and by these presents do give grant and confirm unto Samuel Hagbour, John Town, Daniel Eliott, Abiel Lamb, Joseph Chamberlin, Benj^n^. Nealand, Benoni Twitchell, Joseph Rockett, Benj^n^. Chamberlin, Joshua Whitney, Thomas Hunkins, Joseph Chamberlin jun. Oliver Coller, Daniel Pearson, Abram Skinner, Ebenezer Chamberlin, James Cotter, Isaac Learned, Eben^r^. Learned, Thomas Leason, Eben^r^. Humphry, Jon^a^. Tillotson, Edmund Tailor, Ephraim Town, Israel Town, W^m^. Hudson, Daniel Eliott jun^r^. Nathaniel Chamberlin, John Chandler jun^r^. John Chandler and others their Associates, so as their number amount to thirty families at least, All that Part of the S^d^. Tract of Land, &c. &c. PROVIDED ALWAY, That if any of the persons grantees above named or any of their associates shall and do neglect to settle upon and improve the said land with themselves and families by the space of two years next ensuing, or being settled thereon shall leave and desert the same and not return to their respective habitations in the said Town upon due notice given, That then and in such case it shall and may be lawful to and for the rest of the Grantees and their Associates heirs or assigns respectively or the major part of them to seise upon and take the said Estate or Estates of such person or persons so deserting, &c. . . .

In witness whereof the party abovenamed to these presents have hereunto interchangably set their hands and seals the 8^th^. day

of July in the 12th. year of her Majesty's Reigne Annoq. Dom. 1713.

JOSEPH DUDLEY (SEAL.)
WM. TAYLOR (SEAL.)"
&c. . . . .

"Boston July 15th. 1713 Recd. and Recorded with the Records of Deeds for the Cty. of Suffolk, Lib. XXVIImo. fol. 174 &c. per Addington Davenport Register." [Attested by John Town, *Town Clerk.*]

Division of Land.

From Oxford Town Records.

The draft of ye first Division of Land voted to be drawn on January ye 18th $\frac{14}{15}$ To each man of the 30 to his house lot—his choice according to the lot he draws each man's lot to be 60 acres.

Daniel Eliot jun.	1	John Coller	16
Ephm. Town	2	Joshua Whitney	17
Saml. Hagbourn	3	Joseph Rocket	18
Benony Twichel	4	Ebenr. Larned,	19
Isaac Larned	5	Joseph Ghamberlin	20
Joshua Chandler	6	Thomas Hunkins	21
Ebenr. Humphry	7	Edmund Taylor	22
Daniel Pearson	8	Ebenr. Chamberlin	23
Wm. Hudson	9	Nathl. Chamberlin	24
Benjn. Nealand	10	Jonathan Tillotson	25
Josh. Chamberlin jun.	11	Oliver Coller	26
Daniel Eliot	12	John Chandler jun.	27
Abiel Lamb*	13	Benjn. Chamberlin	28
Thomas Gleason	14	Abram Skinner	29
John Town	15	Israel Town	30

* Died not many years ago, aged upwards of 90 years. He often "told about the Great Snow," which occurred when he was a boy [1717–18.]

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